

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously amended): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface;
- b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface; and
- c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.

Claim 2 (original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar.

Claim 3 (original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 4 (original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein said oil pan is an injection molded filled plastic blend of nylon 6,6 and syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 5 (original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein said joint is substantially free of a sealing gasket.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein a primer contacts said adhesive.

Claim 8 (original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein substantially the entirety of the first and second mating surfaces in contact with said adhesive is capable of bonding thereto.

Claim 9 (Original): An automotive oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) a metal engine having an associated first mating surface;
- b) a molded thermoplastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface; and
- c) an epoxy adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said engine block to said oil pan to define an automotive vehicle oil pan assembly.

Claim 10 (original): The assembly of claim 9, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar

Claim 11 (original): The assembly of claim 9, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 12 (original): The assembly of claim 9, wherein said oil pan is injection molded filled plastic blends of nylon and syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 13 (original): The assembly of claim 9, wherein said joint is substantially free of a sealing gasket.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): The assembly of claim 9, wherein said joint is continuous between said first mating surface and said second mating surface.

Claim 16 (original): The assembly of claim 15, wherein a primer contacts said adhesive.

Claim 17 (original): The assembly of claim 9, wherein substantially the entirety of the first and second mating surfaces in contact with said adhesive is capable of bonding thereto.

Claim 18 (Previously added): The assembly of claim 1, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene, and said joint is substantially free of a sealing gasket, and substantially the entirety of said first and second mating surfaces in contact with said adhesive is capable of bonding thereto.

Claim 19 (Previously added): The assembly of claim 1, wherein said adhesive is a cure-on-demand adhesive.

Claim 20 (Previously added): The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a plasma coating on said oil pan.

Claim 21 (Previously added): The assembly of claim 9, wherein said oil pan is injection molded filled plastic blends of nylon and syndiotactic polystyrene, and said joint is continuous between said first mating surface and said second mating surface, and substantially the entirety of said first and second mating surfaces in contact with said adhesive is capable of bonding thereto.

Claim 22 (Previously added): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface and one or more cutout portions;

b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface and one or more clips, wherein said one or more clips align the molded plastic oil pan with the engine component when engaged with the one or more cutout portions of the engine component; and

c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.